

with tubing between source of vacuum 20 and the collector 18. Hospitals have regulated sources of vacuum 20 with valves mounted in walls and used for drainage. Interposed canister 19 captures the fluid for analysis and safe disposal; see in FIGS. 10 and 11. Source of vacuum 20 may have a regulator 21 connected between it and collector 18 for controlling the amount of vacuum 20 applied to the gathered together external ends 15. Any pressure regulator 21 that permits the adjustment of the amount of vacuum 20 applied can be connected between the source of vacuum 20 and the gathered together external ends 15, again in FIGS. 10 and 11.

[0044] It is believed that the guidance of fluid flow from inside wound or surgical site 11 through wound or surgical opening 16 to gathered together external ends 15 may be a result of fluid surface tension, laminar flow or a combination. Fluid passes along and among loose bundle 17 by that or some other way not fully understood. This is to be distinguished from the flow within drain tubes that is through an internal passageway or through channels. Loose bundle 17 of fibers 12 provides paths along, about, among or through each of fibers 12 that guide fluid draining from inside wound or surgical site 11 somewhat as water is known to follow or flow along a string, wire, rod, or like surface, etc. Surface tension is recognized as the attractive force exerted upon the surface molecules of a liquid by the molecules beneath that tend to draw the surface molecules into the bulk of the liquid and make the liquid assume a shape having the least surface area. It is thought that fluid draining from inside wound or surgical site 11 may exhibit those attractive forces that minimize surface area of the liquid molecules and cause the fluid flow to follow along, among and about each of the plurality of fibers 12. The fluid coagulation seems to be less of a problem perhaps because the flexibility, shape and surface area of loose bundle 17 of fibers 12 is less conducive to coagulating than inside tubing or channels. That is not to say that this is only or exactly what happens but to suggest an explanation of why fluid is guided along, about, among and through loose bundle 17. Significantly, the spaces along and around each fiber 12 seem to allow the fluid to flow with greater freedom than through the internal passageway of a tubular drain or channels with or without wicks.

[0045] It can thus be appreciated that although coagulation may be less of a problem with the plurality of fibers 12 than tubular drains or channels. Loose bundle 17 easily provides guidance of fluid flow from throughout the inside of wound or